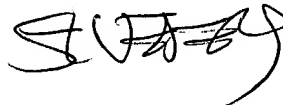


REMARKS

The present amendment is in response to the telephone interview conducted between the Examiner and the undersigned on October 1, 2003. During the interview, the properties of the PTFE-based material were discussed. The rejection with respect to the term "rigid" was also discussed. While the undersigned pointed out support for the term "rigid" in the specification, it was agreed that Applicants would provide the present amendment and a Request for Continued Examination. The present amendment is supported in the specification at page 3, lines 11-14, and page 8, lines 24-26.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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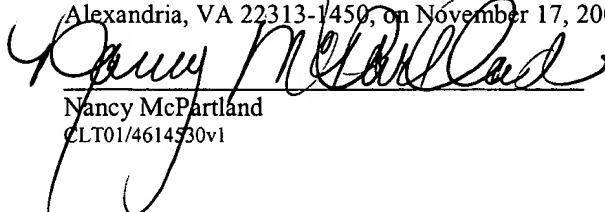
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Appl. No.: 09/939,240

Filed: August 24, 2001

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 17, 2003


Nancy McPartland
CLT01/4614530v1